



Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz July 8, 2014

I hope you all had a great time with family and friends over the 4th of July. My husband and I enjoyed a day of fishing on a quiet serene lake.

As promised, IDOE has completed its "blueprint" for the 2014-15 ISTEP assessment. Below is a memo from Michele Walker. Please share this important information with all educators.

**Test blueprints for the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for grades 3-8, based on the college- and career-ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards, are now posted on the following IDOE Web page:*

<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>. Please see the [attached memorandum](#) for details.

**In addition, attached is a short survey regarding formative assessments. Encourage your educators to complete this survey. This information will help inform the IDOE and the SBOE Assessment Subcommittee as we continue our discussion regarding Indiana assessments. Thank you.*

There are a few items in the DOE Dialogue that I want to call to your attention:

- Press release regarding Indiana being one of 15 states "Meeting Requirements" for [Special Education](#)- now using new achievement measures of NAEP reading and mathematics in addition to the state's compliance matrix
- ESEA Flexibility Waiver link to view final submission materials
- WIDA professional development grant opportunity
- Excellence in Performance Awards - competitive grant to retain Highly Effective teachers in low performing schools
- Food and Nutrition Service - extension of deadline to elect the Community Eligibility Provision

Feel free to leave comments at doecomm@doe.in.gov.



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Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction

NOTE: * indicates data information requirements for ALL public schools, including charter schools.

ESEA Flexibility Waiver

ESEA Flexibility Waiver : The Indiana Department of Education submitted its application for a waiver from aspects of No Child Left Behind. The application was submitted to the United States Department of Education. A copy of the waiver application can be found at <http://www.doe.in.gov/esea>. If you have any questions please contact Jeff Coyne at jcoyne@doe.in.gov.

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IDOE Memoranda

MEMORANDUM: Supplemental WIDA PD Grant Opportunity -The IDOE Office of English Learning and Migrant Education is pleased to announce a supplemental grant opportunity to assist school districts in the implementation of the WIDA English language development (ELD) standards through the purchase of WIDA materials, training on the WIDA standards, and curricula integration with WIDA. The estimated time to complete this brief grant application is 10 minutes. The application is found online [HERE](#). School districts may wish to utilize [Indiana's WIDA Implementation Guide](#) while planning for this supplemental grant.

The grant due date is July 31, 2014. Funds must be encumbered by September 30, 2014 and liquidated by December 15, 2014. This grant opportunity is in addition to a school district's regular Title III or [NESP grants](#). Funding authorizations for each district can be found in the [attached document](#). (\$3.82 per LEP student) Please reference the [memo](#) for further information. If you have any questions, please contact nwilliamson@doe.in.gov or 317-233-0786. ([see memorandum](#))

MEMORANDUM : The Excellence in Performance Awards, totaling \$2 million, are awarded to school corporations and charter schools (corporations) for teachers rated Highly Effective for 2013-2014 in Title I Focus and Priority schools based on 2013 student achievement data. Those Highly Effective teachers must be in leadership roles during the 2014-2015 school year and a school corporation must have an evaluation plan that meets the requirements (**IC 20-28-11.5**) to be eligible.

The purpose of this competitive grant is to retain Highly Effective teachers in Title I Focus and Priority schools. District or charter schools must submit a plan that places Highly Effective teachers in leadership roles that will utilize their talents to increase the capacity to develop more highly effective teachers. Late submissions will not be accepted. ***Since this round of Excellence in Performance grant is competitive, the district will need to decide the amount of cash award each Highly Effective teacher will receive through this grant for the leadership role.***

The IDOE will be allocating \$2 million for this grant during the 2014-2015 school year. For application information, [click on this link](#): Any questions please contact Sarah Pies at spies@doe.in.gov

MEMORANDUM: Test blueprints for the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ English/Language Arts and Mathematics assessments for grades 3-8, based on the college- and career-ready 2014 Indiana Academic Standards, are now posted on the following IDOE Web page: <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>. Please see the [attached memorandum](#) for details.

MEMORANDUM: Assessment Survey for District and Building Level Administrators and Teachers: As the Indiana Department of Education seeks to redesign the formative and summative assessment program we would like field

input. Please click here to answer a quick 9 question survey. ([LINK](#)) The survey will remain open until July 25th. Please spread the word about this opportunity to your teaching staff, as we certainly want as much input as possible. <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/k-12-school-assessments-indiana>

MEMORANDUM: *The Division of School and Community Nutrition Programs* has released a new version of its Direct Certification System today. Direct Certification is a technique for determining student eligibility for free school meals automatically through data exchange with the SNAP/Food Stamp Program, the TANF Program, and Foster Child Data. New Community Eligibility Program, Schools are strongly encouraged to utilize Direct Certification as early as possible in the summer, preceding the start of school. USDA Regulations require that Direct Certification be completed at a minimum of three times a year. The Indiana Department of Education strongly encourages and facilitates the use of these methods continually throughout the school year.

Since the system makes available confidential student and family information, access to the system is strictly limited to users with appropriate STN Application Center credentials. Questions can be addressed to John Todd, jtodd@doe.in.gov, or 317/232-0865. ([see memorandum](#))

MEMORANDUM: US Special Education and Rehabilitative Services announces new accountability framework that raises the bar for State Special Education Programs. U.S. Department of Education has determined state performance under The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Announces a \$50 million Technical Assistance Center to improve the educational outcomes of America's 6.5 million children and youth with disabilities, the U.S. Department of Education announced a major shift in the way it oversees the effectiveness of states' special education programs. For further information see attached [press release](#)

MEMORANDUM : The Indiana Department of Education has joined 160 other agencies and companies to collect school supplies for the nearly 33,000 Marion County students needing help with back to school supplies. Backpack Attack, coordinated with United Way, relies on donations of school supplies to help provide students with the needed materials to begin their school year successfully. Until July 22, the IDOE will be collecting school supplies for Marion County students. After the supplies have been collected and sorted, students and families needing help with back to school supplies will be invited to a "Distribution Day" at Tech High School.

Collection bins are located on the 5th floor of the PNC Building by the elevators, the 6th floor of the PNC Building in the lobby, and at the Statehouse outside of Room 227. If you have questions regarding the Back-to-School Supply Drive contact DeVonne Richburg at drichburg@doe.in.gov.

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Professional Development

National Parenting Gifted Children Week is July 20-26, 2014. Parents of gifted children often support and advocate for a well-rounded and rigorous education for their student. We applaud their efforts, and continue to work with them in ensuring all high ability students in Indiana receive the education they deserve. We invite parents, educators, and community members to connect with other parents across the nation in celebrating National Parenting Gifted Children Week sponsored by [Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted](#).

Education Service Centers will be offering RISE Teacher Evaluation Training between June 2014 and September 2014. Below are the scheduled dates and their registration sites:

- West Central ESC: July 21-22, 2014 (<http://www.wciesc.k12.in.us>)
- Wilson Center ESC: July 21-22, 2014 (<http://www.wesc.k12.in.us>)
- Region 8 ESC: July 23-24, 2014 (<http://www.r8esc.k12.in.us>)
- Northern Indiana ESC: July 29-31, 2014 (<http://www.niesc.k12.in.us>)
- Wabash Valley ESC: July 29-30, 2014 (<http://www.esc5.k12.in.us>)
- Southern Indiana ESC: August 27-28, 2014 (<http://www.siec.k12.in.us>)
- Northwest Indiana ESC: September 4-5, 2014 (<http://www.nwiesc.k12.in.us>)

- Central Indiana ESC: September 18-19, 2014 (<http://www.ciesc.k12.in.us>)

Central Indiana Educational Services, (CIESC) offers a variety of professional learning workshops, to view these events visit www.ciesc.k12.in.us, view events calendar on right side bar or click on Services, then Professional Learning.

HANDS, some of our most popular trainings are our **intensive trainings** and now, for the first time, we are offering **administrators and team leaders** the opportunity to participate in a 2-day training tailored just for them! The training will focus on providing participants with the essential components to programming with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related disabilities. Additionally, training will offer coaching on the integration of newly released administrative tools developed by HANDS to complement other evaluation tools currently utilized by administrators and teams to evaluate classroom and programming outcomes. The offered tools will increase the efficiency and focus with which administrators and team leaders are able to implement and document evaluations.

HANDS in Autism® Administrator and Team Leader Training: Tools and Process for Effective and Efficient Program Evaluations will take place at the HANDS in Autism® office from August 6-7, 2014. For more information and to apply online, please visit <https://handsinautism.iupui.edu/handsIntensive.html>.

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Legislative & Policy Updates

For updates, check out the our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Information from Other Agencies

Food and Nutrition Service - Extension of the Deadline for Local Educational Agencies to Submit Applications to Elect the Community Eligibility Provision.

One important goal of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA) is to ensure every American child has access to the nutrition they need to grow into healthy adults. The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a powerful tool to ensure children in low income communities have access to healthy meals at school. CEP allows participatin high-poverty schools to offer healthy free lunches and breakfasts to all students without requiring their families to complete individual applications. Once initial eligibility and claiming percentages are established under CEP, they are guaranteed for four school years.

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) recognizes that many LEAs may need additional time to consider and apply for CEP, so the deadline for LEAs to elect to participate in CEP in school year 2014-2015 has been extended to August 31, 2014. The CEP webpage (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/community-eligibility-provision>) includes Title I guidance, Q&A guidance, and tools to assist LEAs as they consider implementing this important provision. [The USDA memo is attached.](#)

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